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NEWS RELEASE

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TOPEKA MAN TO SERVE 10 YEARS IN PRISON FOR PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

TOPEKA, KAN. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Stephen W. Grimm**, 28, Topeka, has been sentenced to prison.

Grimm was sentenced Jan. 7, 2005 by U.S. District Court Judge Richard D. Rogers to 120 months in federal prison.

Grimm pleaded guilty Oct. 6, 2004 to one count of using a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a video on June 29, 2002; one count of possessing child pornography obtained by computer on Sept. 25, 2002; and one count of forfeiture of the computer, VCR player, and video recorder used to commit these offenses, all in Shawnee County, Kansas.

In his plea, Grimm admitted that on June 29, 2002 he lured a 6-year-old boy to his house with the offer of a Mountain Dew drink and instructed the boy on how to perform sexual acts, which Grimm taped with an 8 mm video camera. Grimm copied the tape to VHS video. Grimm admitted that the camera and tapes had traveled in interstate commerce. Grimm also uploaded eight still pictures from the videotape to his computer, which had traveled in interstate commerce.

In his plea, Grimm also admitted that he possessed more than 1,500 images of child pornography and approximately 142 movie files containing child pornography involving prepubescent minors and minors under the age of 12. The images, which Grimm obtained via computer, included scenes of bestiality, bondage and violence.

(More)

Melgren commended the Shawnee County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Customs Service, which investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Tanya Treadway, who prosecuted.

"Offenses such as these prey on the most vulnerable of our society, and threaten the very fabric of our culture," Melgren said. "Our prosecution of this case addressed a significant federal interest."